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Message Text

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12
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-10 OMB-01

SAJ-01 EB-07 /088 W
---------- 060304
P R 021611Z SEP 75
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0271
INFO AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI
DIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 ATHENS 6650

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, GR, PINT
SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER REASSURES THE NATION IT IS IN SAFE HANDS

6. THE PRIME MINISTER THEN ASSURED HIS LISTENERS THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS RAPIDLY ARMING THE NATION WHICH HAD BEEN NEARLY DEFENSELESS WHEN HE TOOK OVER THE HELM. THE GOG WOULD SPEND SOME 11.5 BILLION DRACHMAS (DOLS 348 MILLION) FOR ARMS THIS YEAR ALONE, COMPARED WITH 10.4 BILLION DRACHMAS (DOLS 318 MILLION) SPENT DURING THE ENTIRE PERIOD OF THE JUNTA, HE POINTED OUT. HE PROMISED PROPORTIONATE SUMS TO BE EXPENDED OVER THE COMING FIVE YEARS

7. ADDRESSING FOREIGN POLICY TOPICS, THE PRIME MINISTER SPOKE OF GREECE'S RETURN TO THE "FOREFRONT OF INTERNATIONAL LIFE" FROM ITS PREVIOUS TOTAL ISOLATION UNDER THE JUNTA. "OUR FUNDAMENTAL TARGETS IN FOREIGN POLICY HAVE BEEN THE REINFORCEMENT OF OUR COUNTRY'S PRESTIGE, AND THE REINFORRCEMENT OF OUR NATIONAL SECURITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT." HE MENTIONED GREECE'S (REQUEST FOR) ENTRY INTO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND COOPERATION AMONG THE BALKAN COUNTRIES AS CONCRETE EVIDENCE OF THE NATION'S RESURGENCE ONTO THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT
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GREECE HAD MADE SOME MISTAKES WITH REGARD TO CYPRUS, BUT CHARGED THAT TURKEY HAD EXPLOITED THESE ERRORS TO DO INJUSTICE TO GREECE AND TO CYPRUS. GREECE HAS ALREADY ACCEPTED THE IDEA OF A DIALOGUE FOR THE EACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DIFFERENCES AND THE RESTORATION

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OF FRIENDSHIP. HOWEVER, THE TURKS REMAIN INTRANSIGENT AND THE DOMESTIC SITUATION IN TURKEY MAKES IT DIFFICULT FOR THAT COUNTRY TO NEGOTIATE, HE CONCLUDED. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GREEKS WERE OBLIGATED, WITHOUT WISHING TO PROVOKE ANYONE, TO STRENGTHEN THEIR DEFENSES, AND CONCLUDED HIS REMARKS BY ASKING FOR "...THE ENTHUSIASM AND LOYALTY" OF THE OFFICERS.

8. THE FOLLOWING DAY (AUGUST 30), THE PRIME MINISTER, DURING HIS ADDRESS ON THE NEW FIVE-YEAR ECONOMIC PROGRAM AT A DINNER ON THE OCCASION OF THE OPENING OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR IN THESSALONIKI, RETURNED TO THE THEME OF THE SUCCESS DURING HIS ONE YEAR IN OFFICE. AGAIN HE CITED THE "COLLAPSE" OF THE JUNTA AND THE DIFFICULTIES WHICH HE FACED WHEN HE CAME TO POWER. "IN OUR TIMES, THE COLLAPSE OF DICTATORSHIPS IN CONNECTION WITH NATIONAL CRISIS IS FOLLOWED ALMOST WITHOUT EXCEPTION BY SOCIAL AND POLITICAL UPHEAVAL OF SUCH DIMENSIONS AS COULD EASILY LEAD TO CIVIL STRIFE OR OTHER SERIOUS ABNORMALTIES." CARAMANLIS CONTENDED THAT HE DID NOT RESURRECT THESE TRYING MEMORIES JUST TO IMPRESS HIS AUDIENCE, BUT DID SO LEST THE GREEK PEOPLE FORGET THE DIRE IMPLICATIONS OF A RETURN TO THE PREVIOUS SYSTEM. IN A PLEA FOR UNITED PUBLIC SUPPORT, HE SAID "WE CANNOT ALLOW OURSELVES THE LUXURY OF DISORDER OR OF IMPASSIVITY WHEN FACED WITH DISORDERS CAUSED BY OTHER CITIZENS. IT IS NOT SUFFICIENT FOR ONLY THE STATE TO REACT TO THE UNJUSTIFIED GROUP MANIFESTATIONS OF SMALL AND FANATIC MINORITIES LED AND MOBILIZED BY THOSE WHO HAVE EVERY INTEREST IN UNDERMINING THE FORM OF GOVERNMENT. THE VAST BUT SILENT MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE MUST ALSO TAKE ACTION AND REACT IN SUPPORT OF DEMOCRATIC LEGALITY."

9. SOME MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITION WERE PROMPT TO REGISTER THEIR REACTION TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECHES. DEPUTY LEONIDAS KYRKOS, SECOND IN COMMAND OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY-INTERIOR (KKE-INTERIOR), STATED IN AN APPEARANCE AT CORINTH THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS HANDLING THE COUNTRY'S PROBLEMS IN AN "AUTOCRATIC" FASHION. HE CRITICIZED THE COMMUTATION OF THE DEATH SENTENCES, AND COMPLAINED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS MAINTAINING A WALL OF SILENCE
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ON THE CYPRUS PROBLEM. REFERRING TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S CALL FOR COOPERATION BY ALL, THE COMMUNIST LEADER SAID HIS PARTY COULD NOT QUARREL WITH THE GENERAL APPEAL PROVIDED THAT SUCH COLLABORATION IS CONDUCTED ON A TRULY DEMOCRATIC BASIS - A POLITY OF NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE LEADING TO THE FINAL WITHDRAWAL FROM NATO, THE EXPANSION OF GREECE'S RELATIONS WITH THE SOCIALIST AND NON-ALIGNED NATIONS OF THE WORLD, AND THE TOTAL CLEANSING OF JUNTA ELEMENTS

10. FOR HIS PART, PASOK PRESIDENT ANDREAS PAPANDREOU IN A STATEMENT STRONGLY CRITICIZED THE PRIME MINISTER FOR THE "PATERNALISTIC" TONE OF HIS SPEECH TO THE MILITARY OFFICERS. HE ALSO ACCUSED CARAMANLIS OF REWIRITING HISTORY IN REFERRING TO THE "INCOHERENT" POLITICAL SITUATION WHICH PREVAILED IN GREECE AFTER

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CARAMANLIS DEPARTED (IN 1963). PAPANDREOU SAID THE CRISIS WAS CREATED BY CONSTANTINE THROUGH HIS ROYAL "COUP D'ETAT" ON JULY 15, 1965 (AGAINST ANDREAS' FATHER, THEN PRIME MINISTER GEORGE PAPANDREOU) UNDER AMERICAN DIRECTION AND NOT AS CARAMANLIS IMPLIED BY THE POLITICIANS.

11. CENTER UNION/NEW FORCES PRESIDENT MAVROS HAS NOT COMMENTED ON THE PM'S SPEECHES. (HE SENT THE PM A LETTER ON SEPTEMBER 1 ARGUING HIS CASE FOR RECONVENING THE FULL PARLIAMENT IN A SPECIAL SESSION -- THE PARLIAMENT IS SCHEDULED TO MEET AGAIN IN FULL SESSION ON OCTOBER 6 -- TO DISCUSS THE COMMUTATION OF THE DEATH SENTENCES AND CYPRUS. (THE TEXT OF THE LETTER IS EXPECTED TO BE RELEASED LATER THIS WEEK.)
KUBISCH

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